

Alberta Finance Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of May 12, 2003 to May 16, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	March			
Canada	113.9	0.1%	4.8%	In March, new house prices in Canada were up 4.8% from the same period last year. All 21 urban regions surveyed posted annual increases, led by Québec (+9.2%), Montréal (+8.2%), Hamilton (+7.6%), Edmonton (+7.1%) and Victoria (+7.1%). The largest monthly increases were reported in Saskatoon (+1.3%), London (+1.1%), Hamilton (+0.8%), and Winnipeg (+0.8%).
Edmonton	127.7	0.0%	7.1%	
Calgary	148.0	0.6%	5.4%	
Canadian International Merchandise Trade (\$ millions)	March			
Exports	35,901	2.8%	9.0%	Canada's overall trade surplus increased by \$1.1 billion in March, to \$5.9 billion. Exports rose by 2.8% from the previous month, while imports fell 0.5%. Surging energy exports (up 14.9%) were responsible for over three-quarters of the monthly improvement in Canada's merchandise trade balance. Imports from the United States fell by 2.5% in March.
Imports	29,953	-0.5%	4.1%	
New Motor Vehicle Sales	March			
Alberta	16,149	-4.8%	-4.6%	New motor vehicle sales in Canada numbered 139,670 in March, down 4.4% from the previous month. Passenger car sales declined by 4.8%, while truck sales fell by 4.0%. All provinces experienced monthly decreases in sales, with the largest declines being recorded in British Columbia (-10.5%) and New Brunswick (-7.3%).
Canada	139,670	-4.4%	-0.9%	
Manufacturing Shipments (\$ millions)	March			
Alberta	3,937	3.0%	22.5%	In March, Canadian manufacturing shipments were up 1.4% from the previous month, driven by a 6.2% jump in motor vehicle shipments and a 5.5% increase in shipments of petroleum and coal products. Seven provinces experienced monthly increases, with the largest gains being recorded in New Brunswick (+8.0%), Prince Edward Island (+4.0%) and Alberta (+3.0%). On an annual basis, Alberta's manufacturing shipments were up 22.5%.
Canada	44,694	1.4%	6.9%	